

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

Autumn 2018

ANSHOME.ORG



**Audubon
Naturalist
Society**

Connecting people with
nature in the DC Region

**Why we all should be
for the birds**

by Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

ANS NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

The Audubon Naturalist Society inspires residents of the greater Washington, DC region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

HEADQUARTERS

Woodend, a 40-acre wildlife sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

STORE HOURS

Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday 9 AM-5 PM

Sunday 12-5 PM

GROUNDINGS HOURS

Dawn to dusk

ANS MEMBERSHIP

Student \$15

Individual \$50

Family \$65

Nature Steward \$100

Audubon Advocate \$200

Sanctuary Guardian \$500

Naturalists Council \$1,000

Preservationist \$1,000+

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Environmental Education x16

Membership x35

Publications, advertising x23

Rentals x38

Volunteers x20

Contributions x31

Special Events x12

Rust Sanctuary 703-669-0000

E-mail unusual bird sightings to
Voice@anshome.org

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NATURALIST QUARTERLY

ANShome.org Autumn 2018

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COVER Photo of Tree Swallow taken by Peter Boice on the "Introduction to Bird ID by Voice" field trip in May.

STAFF UPDATES

We say a heartfelt good-bye to two remarkable staff members in Accounting, **Barbara Young**, a Staff Accountant who joined ANS in December 2015 and retired in August, and **Dupe Cole**, Senior Accountant & Benefits Manager since October 2016, who left the staff in June to work for her husband's business and spend more time with her children. We're thrilled to pieces to welcome **Sherrice Ajebon** back to ANS as our "new" Senior Accountant & Benefits Manager. Sherrice brings more than 10 years of non-profit accounting experience to the position. This summer we said a sad goodbye to the outstanding **Allie Henn**, who joined ANS as an intern and then worked for two years as Development Assistant, and to the exceptional **Ambika AnandProkop**, who joined ANS as an Environmental Educator in 2016 and left to join her husband in Dubai. Allie is now attending graduate school. We're super-excited that **Kristin Cook** has joined our staff in the new position of Database and Email Assistant, and that **Bradley Simpson**, a recent University of Maryland graduate, came aboard as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps volunteer.

From the Director

A World of Benefit Comes Our Way When We Conserve Our Resources

This summer, during our annual sojourn to Nova Scotia, my mother and I witnessed an unusual drama. We were riveted as a mature bald eagle hunted black ducks in a nearby cove. Imagine the scene – nine furiously paddling ducks, eagle descending with talons outstretched, Arctic terns dive-bombing the eagle as it closed in. One black duck got separated from its raft mates who had hidden under a wharf. It looked grim for the little paddler as the mighty talons got closer and closer, but then, BLOOP! The duck dove completely under water to safety as the terns drove the eagle off, talons empty.

In this anniversary year of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (see page 4), I reflect on that amazing eagle, duck and tern tableau. Those tiny Arctic terns migrate longer distances than any other bird in the world. And despite their diminutive size, they fiercely protected their young from the eagle and in so doing, provided inter-species defense for their duck counterparts. The scene reminded me how much the eagles, a most iconic migratory species, have rebounded in numbers during my lifetime. And while it might have been hard to watch, the coastal ecosystem could probably spare a black duck to nourish a hungry eagle before the waterfowl headed south along the Atlantic Flyway. As ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason often says, “Everybody has to eat.” And everybody has to conserve, too.

For me, it was a summer for thinking about conservation, for the birds and beyond. I marveled that the hand-dug well at our cottage held out during a long, dry spell while hosting 11 houseguests and a big family party (There was some encouragement to ‘save a flush!’). What would we have done if our supply of clean water ran out, as it is doing for so many in our nation and around the world? The Atlantic Ocean itself was warmer than it had been for years. Swimming was a pleasure but I couldn’t help but wonder if fair swimming was a more ominous sign of climate change.

And sorting the trash in Nova Scotia is like earning a PhD in our GreenKids Garbology program. You name it and it’s recycled. We put every single food scrap into the giant green compost bin (beware of leaving it close to your open bedroom window after lobster feasts). We completely separate deposit bottles and cans from every scrap of plastic, metal and glass and further divide corrugated cardboard, boxboard and paper. Trash and compost collection happens only once every two weeks - each household allowed just one ‘true trash’ bag during that time. It’s some exercise in recycling after hosting a party for 45 members of the family clan! And it reminds me that we can do better here at home.

This summer, for the first time in history, Nova Scotia imposed a size limit on the mackerel for which we fished. Ten-and-a-half inches was the new ‘keeper’ limit designed to sustain schools of mackerel that support grey seals, harbour seals, harbour porpoises and fish in the local bay. I must confess it was a bit hard to swallow a mackerel restriction for this lifetime angler. But then, I remembered the terns, and I knew that my job as a proud member of Audubon Naturalist Society is to



provide inter-species defense.

We can defend species by conserving clean water, reducing carbon emissions, respecting fishing restrictions, restoring degraded habitats at Woodend, and changing our personal actions to better protect and preserve nature here at home. We have an obligation to keep our region healthy for people AND wildlife. Bird conservation was the genesis of Audubon Naturalist Society 121 years ago. We have so much more that needs conserving today, we’ll be working hard for the next 121 years.

What can you do to help? Sign up for one of our conservation advocacy workshops to learn how to defend nature in your community (see page 9). Volunteer for our education and restoration programs. I encourage you to take one new step to conserve resources this fall and winter. Please email me at lisa.alexander@anshome.org and let me know what new action you’ll be taking. We’ll share your best ideas. Please become an ANS members and join our inter-species protection team! Thank you for conserving nature!



Yoli Del Buono 1946-2018

ANS says goodbye to Yoli Del Buono, Assistant Shop Manager, who passed away in June after a brief illness.

Yoli was a gentle and kind person who brought liveliness, creativity and excellent customer service to our Audubon Naturalist Shop. She had a magic touch when it came to finding just the right nature gifts that would delight all visitors, ANS staff included. When Yoli helped host an author talk, you could count on delicious, plentiful and truly special foods to complement the event. Yoli treasured the company and friendship of the Shop Volunteers and always made sure they were thanked in the most celebratory ways. We will miss her lovely voice, beautiful smile and excellent company.

Please see a tribute to Yoli by shop volunteer Adria Zeldin at www.anshome.org/shop.

Why we all should be for the birds

Help up protect the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act

by Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

This year, our Office Manager Pam Oves and her husband, Chris, are doing a Big Year. This means they have a goal of seeing and recording 500 bird species. Some of their favorite local birds include Northern Flicker, Eastern Bluebird, and Cedar Waxwing, which Pam describes as “arguably the most handsome bird around.” But 100 years ago, these birds were threatened by fashion. They all were catalogued by Ornithologist Frank Chapman attached to ladies’ hats in New York City in 1886.

At the time, the birds were unprotected by laws and policies, and needed Congress to act. After years of work by our fore-mothers at ANS and their allies in Congress, and inspired by the paintings of John James Audubon, one of our nation’s first environmental laws was passed – the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. As a result, 2018 is designated the **Year of the Bird!**

Over the last 100 years, the MBTA has protected birds and prevented countless species from meeting the fate of the Passenger Pigeon, which went from “sweet billions overhead” (J.E. Sutter) to extinct in a matter of decades. While hunting was originally the greatest threat, today “take” that is “incidental” to another purpose, meaning the primary goal of the activity is not to harm birds, causes immense mortality. For example, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill killed a million birds in the Gulf of Mexico. BP paid a \$100 million fine for those deaths.

Now, the Trump Administration is trying to gut the MBTA by proposing that only intentional take, like hunting, should be penalized. This interpretation gives polluting industries, particularly the oil industry and its oil-waste pits (that’s what happened to the grebe in the image [at right]), a massive loophole and puts millions of birds at risk.

Environmental groups are fighting back with lawsuits to save MBTA. It’s an uphill battle and we need your help! Call your member of Congress today at (202) 224-3121 and tell them to stop the Trump Administration’s plans to gut the Migratory Bird Treaty Act!

For the birds’ sakes, and ours, let’s let the Year of the Bird breathe permanence into the Migratory Bird Treaty Act!





Photo by Pam Oves

Why birds need us to keep the noise down

by Janet Bogue, ANS member

(Excerpt from testimony submitted by ANS to the DC City Council regarding the banning of gas-powered leaf blowers because of their harm to birds and us.)



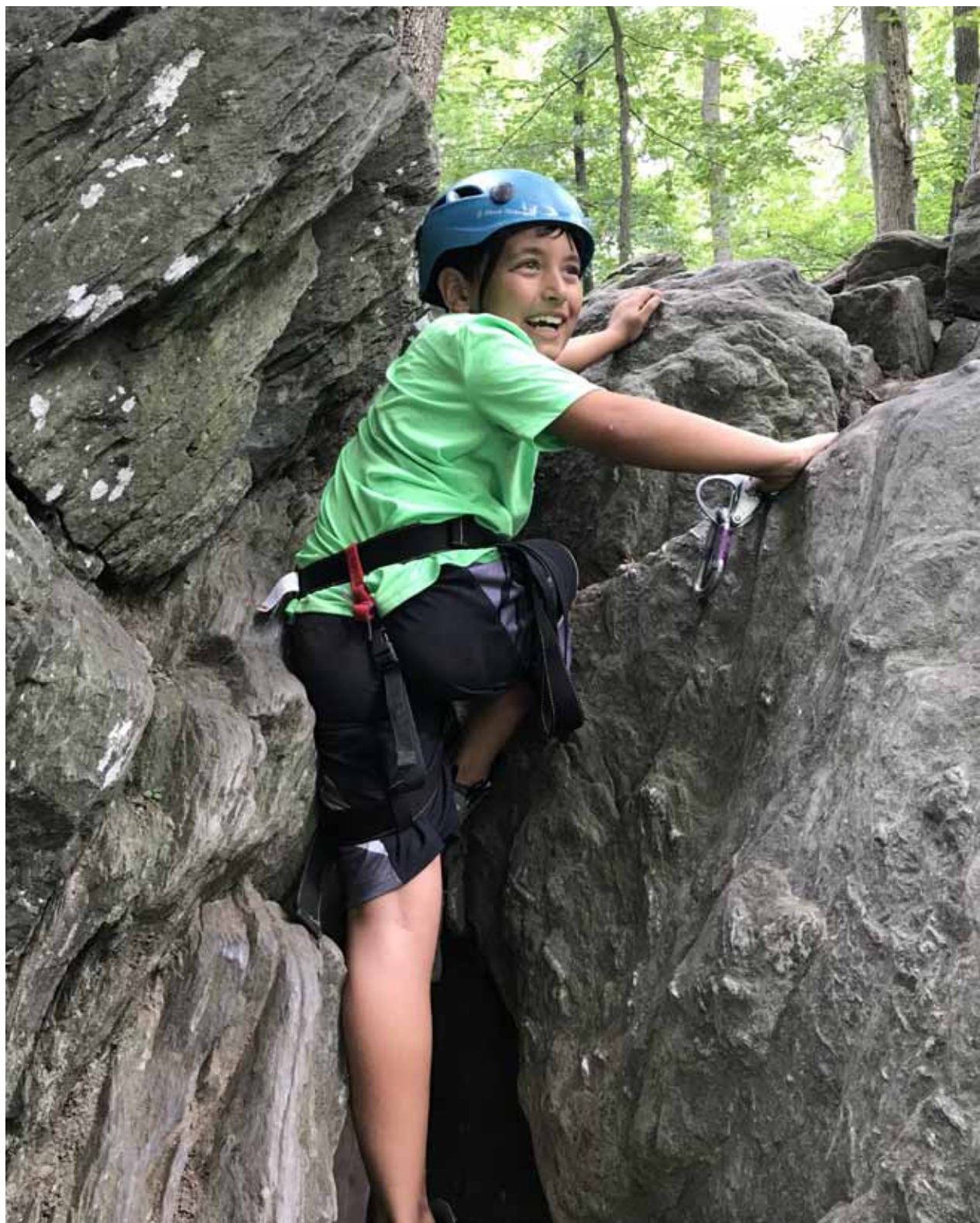
Photo by Peter Boice

“Washington’s parks, gardens and rivers host 340 species of birds. Washington’s birds are gifts to our eyes and ears...Birds vocalize to warn of danger, recognize their own species, defend their territories, find mates, stay in contact with their young, and find their way during migration. Birds also need to hear predators coming, and some birds, such as owls, use sound to find prey. This dependence on sound makes birds especially vulnerable to acoustic impacts. Recent peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that where there is loud, human-caused noise, many bird species suffer. Struggling to hear and be heard, they are less protected from predators and less able to find mates. Their stress hormones are elevated, with poor consequences for their health and reproductive success. Research has found that many species of birds have tried to change their voices to be heard above the roar of human activities – or simply have abandoned noisy environments. Scientists have documented declines in bird numbers, bird diversity and bird nesting success in environments with elevated, non-natural noises.” *(See entire testimony at www.anshome.org/newsroom)*

Children and Nature



Photo by Ben Israel



Rock climbing, ziplining, and catching, inspecting, and identifying insects in our meadows were just a few of the thrilling outdoor activities more than 750 ANS campers participated in this summer. Researchers tell us that being in nature can reduce stress, improve mental and physical health and academic performance, and help prevent myopia (near-sightedness) in children. (See www.anshome.org/great-outdoors for details.) ANS offers year-round opportunities to connect children with nature. Visit www.anshome.org/education to learn more.

Photo by Ben Israel



Photo by Ben Israel



Photo by Ben Israel



Conservation

Save the Land and Water Conservation Fund!



Photo by NPS

Policy and Advocacy News

By Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

National

Land and Water Conservation Fund: This critical fund takes a small portion of the revenues from oil and gas drilling on public lands and directs it to conservation and recreation around the country. It needs to be reauthorized by September 30! In our region, it's helped protect the C&O Canal, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (photo above), Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, and so much more. Learn how you can call your Congresspeople to ask for their support on our blog!

Maryland

Stormwater Management in Montgomery County: Starting in February, ANS has been leading advocacy efforts to oppose dramatic proposed cuts to the stormwater management program. A compromise still cut the program, but included programmatic commitments around public transparency, green infrastructure, and community and Council oversight into the future. July's massive rainstorms are a reminder of why we need to get stormwater right: with the impacts of climate change, we are seeing more intense storms, and we've got to protect our streams and communities.

Action Alert! Montgomery County Ag Reserve Under

Threat: A zoning amendment currently being considered by Council would allow very large events to be held on new kinds of brewery and winery sites. These changes are different from small weddings or festivals and are an unreasonable, non-agricultural use of the reserve. The committee has approved the measure, but it will come before full Council in September. Join ANS and Montgomery Countryside Alliance in asking for essential changes to this amendment! Check out our blog to learn more and send your letter.

Virginia

Fairfax County Tree Action Plan: The Fairfax County Tree Commission is currently updating its Tree Action Plan, a 20-year strategy for conservation and management of the county's tree resources. ANS NoVa Advocacy Manager Monica Billger is newly elected to an At-Large position on the commission. As a commissioner, Monica is looking forward to identifying opportunities to increase tree canopy in urban areas affected by fewer trees and greater impervious surface, many of which fall in areas of greater socioeconomic distress.

Action Alert! Dogue Creek is at risk: In March, Fairfax County wrapped up an amendment to its Comprehensive Plan to spur green redevelopment along Route 1. The EMBARK Richmond Highway Plan envisions protecting green spaces, including flood plains, between new, denser residential and commercial communities. Unfortunately the new plan is being put to the test already—a land owner on Dogue Creek is hoping to develop a parcel right in the floodplain into a 43-condo complex. Are you a Mt. Vernon or Fairfax County resident? Check out our blog to send in your own letter to the Planning Commission!

Washington, DC

In Washington, DC, ANS has recently taken stands on **synthetic turf fields** and **noisy two-cycle leaf blowers**: we want less of both! Kids should be playing on natural grass that doesn't release particles of rubber and plastic into the environment; and we support phasing out those noisy blowers in favor of electric models that are far better for wildlife stressed by urban noise impacts. Thanks to ANS members Janet Bogue and David Cottingham who drafted and delivered critical testimony [see p. 5 for an excerpt].

Interested in getting involved or learning more?
Sign up for our Action Alert list and check out our Blog at
conservationblog.anshome.org.

Conservation

Conservation Cafés

For the first time this September, join us off-site-and at a new time - at the Metro-accessible headquarters of Wild Earth Allies - for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on nature conservation topics. Your registration fee supports our Conservation Program! **See detailed descriptions and register at www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe.**

- **Thursday, September 13 (5:30-7 pm):** Adam Henson, Program Director of Wild Earth Allies: "Marine Turtle Conservation in El Salvador." Location: 2 Wisconsin Circle, Suite 900, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (Friendship Heights Metro) \$10
- **Thursday, October 25 (7-8:30 pm at Woodend):** Dr. Patricia Hernandez, George Washington University: "Great Jumping Carps! Anatomical specializations may be the secret behind the success of this invasive species in the Midwest" (\$15)
- **Thursday, November 15 (7-8:30 pm at Woodend):** Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Executive Director of Maryland Environmental Health Network: "Making policy at the edge of risk: science and the precautionary principle in environmental health" (\$15)

Upcoming Advocacy Workshops

Learn more and register at:
www.anshome.org/training
Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD



Photo by Ben Israel

Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101
Thursday, September 20 (10 am-2:30 pm)
Members \$20; nonmembers \$30

Join Audubon Naturalist Society's experts for a fun and empowering workshop at Woodend: environmental advocacy & watershed stewardship 101! Includes a tour of Woodend's watershed restoration projects and uses role play and scenarios to build confidence and comfort in speaking up for nature. All are welcome. Led by Conservation Director Eliza Cava and Policy Consultant Bruce Gilmore.

The focus is on clean water but the skills can apply to any environmental issue—learn how you can raise your voice for local conservation.

Advocacy 202: Using online tools and social media for organizing
Thursday, November 1 (6:30-8:30 pm)
Members \$15; nonmembers \$20

Led by Eliza Cava and Marketing & Communications Director Caroline Brewer, this workshop will introduce you to the organizing and communication tool that ANS uses (Action Network) and show you how you can use it for your grassroots group to maximize your communication with members, the public, and decision-makers. You will also learn how to use images and social media to amplify your message!

Do you want to read your *Naturalist Quarterly* online and reduce paper use and printing costs? If so, email membership@anshome.org and ask to be taken off our mailing list.



Photo by Dave Sigrift

Thank you to our Interns!

This summer, ANS Conservation hosted four undergraduate student interns. From left to right in the photo: Haley Mullen, Princess Mutasa, Lambert Ngenzi, and Christiana Glab worked with us to analyze data, lead Creek Critters events, write handbooks and action alerts, and much more. Thank you interns—we'll miss you all!



Adults and Nature



Photo by Daniel Martinez



ANS Master Naturalist and Field Trip Leader Cathy Stragar peered into a swamp mallow rose (hibiscus), and found “a party going on!” A closer look revealed beetles, bees, and other tiny insects inside ... “They’re eating, mating, getting ready for pollinating and taking food back to their young!” Stragar announced to the crowd on the trip at Huntley Meadows Park in Virginia.

10

Photo by Daniel Martinez



Swamp mallow rose close-up.



Photo by Daniel Martinez

Huntley Meadows field trip participants excitedly point out another Osprey circling for food over the wetland.



Photo by Daniel Martinez

ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason, who led the trip at Huntley Meadows Park, stops to discuss beaver activity happening at the edge of the marsh along the trail.

Children & Family Programs

You and your kids can unplug and explore nature every day at Woodend and Rust nature sanctuaries, open dawn to dusk for free, 365 days a year. Our trained naturalists and excellent volunteers are eager to introduce children to nature through the Audubon Nature Preschool, Summer Camp, Nature Birthday Parties, Family Programs, and at your children's school through School Programs and GreenKids. Consider having your PTA or PTO sponsor a nature activity for your school!

Campfire and Craft

Friday, October 26 (4:30-5:30 pm)

Saturday, December 1 (4-5 pm)

Fee: \$10 per child, adults free

Come join us for a Campfire and Craft. We will provide all of the s'more ingredients. \$10 per child, adults are free. Please bring cash or a check. RSVP to nora.kelly@anshome.org.



MCPS School's Out Camps

Do you want your children to be outside in nature learning and having fun on their day off from school? Then send them to our School's Out Camp! We'll explore the Woodend Nature Sanctuary, get muddy in the pond, build forts, and play games.

Register online at anshome.org/parents

Monday, September 10

(Grades K-9)

Wednesday, September 19

(Grades K-9)

Tuesday, November 6

(Grades K-9)

8:45 am-5 pm

Members \$100;

Nonmembers \$115



Tales and Trails

Ages 2-4 with a caregiver

Tuesdays, September 4-

November 6

(10-10:45 am)

Fall Session: \$80 per child

This 10-week class invites young children to discover the wonders of nature as we journey through the changing seasons. We'll tap into children's deep connection with nature by reading stories, making fun crafts, and singing songs. Make sure to dress for the weather as we will explore our Sanctuary trails each class to see what new surprises we can find.

Feel free to relax and enjoy our trails, picnic areas, and bookstore before or after the program. Register online at www.anshome.org/parents. Questions? Contact Gina at gina.ghertner@anshome.org.

Nature Backpacks

Visit our Naturalist Shop to check out a backpack that will have tools and activities you and your family can use to explore nature right here at Woodend Sanctuary. Themes include birds, insects, trees, nature art, and more. Backpacks are free for check-out in the shop but must be returned by 4:30 pm.



Weekend Walks in the Woods

Join us the first Saturday of every month for a **FREE** naturalist-led walk in the woods. Explore the Woodend grounds and learn about different topics each month, such as birds, trees, insects, and fungi. All ages welcome! Walks run from 9-10 am. Meet at the gazebo by the Audubon Naturalist Shop.

Did You Know?

A Roseate Spoonbill was seen near Pennyfield Lock on the C&O Canal in August, possibly the first sighting ever in Montgomery County, MD. This wading bird is usually found in the southeastern U.S.



Camp Audubon thanks you for a great summer!

It's not too early to think about next summer! Tell your friends that Friday, December 7, 2018 is the date to become an ANS member and be eligible for members-only registration on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. Catalogs will be mailed in late December.

Spring Break Camp (Grades K-9)

Register online at www.anshome.org/parents

Experience the wonders of Spring at Camp Audubon! Catch frogs in the pond, hike to Rock Creek, and get your hands dirty in our Children's Garden! Grades 6-9 can earn up to 20 SSL hours doing sanctuary stewardship activities.

MCPS: Wednesday, April 17-Friday, April 19, 2019

(8:45 am-3 pm)

Extended camp available from 3-5 pm (\$45)

Members \$255; nonmembers \$310

DCPS: Monday, April 15-Friday, April 19, 2019

(8:45 am-3 pm)

Extended camp available from 3-5 pm (\$75)

Members \$365; nonmembers \$450



Birthday Parties

Unplug and Celebrate with a Nature Birthday Party at Woodend Sanctuary!



twitter.com/ANStweets

Audubon Nature Preschool

Audubon Nature Preschool

The Audubon Nature Preschool features programs for children aged 5 years and younger. Children benefit from exploring the natural surroundings of the 40-acre sanctuary, which offer endless opportunities for investigation and discovery.

The Audubon Nature Preschool builds on children's inherent curiosity about the world by using hands-on, nature-based activities to foster social, physical, and academic skill development.

All Nature Preschool programs run September-May.



Drop-off Programs

Saplings

3-5 year olds
Mondays through Thursdays
AM program, 8:45-11:45 am
PM program, 12:45-3:15 pm

Oaks

4-5 year olds
Forest Kindergarten
Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am-2 pm;
Fridays, 9 am-12 pm

Parent and Child Programs

Acorns

4 year olds and younger
All outdoor program
Thursdays, 9:30-11 am
Sibling discounts available

Sprouts

2-3 year olds
Activities on the trails & in the preschool
Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

ANP Story Hikes and Preschool tours

RSVP online at www.anshome.org/events-calendar. Children encouraged to attend! Please dress to walk our trails. All open houses are on Saturdays from 9:30-11 am.

- December 1, 2018
- January 12, 2019
- February 2, 2019

Preschool Community Events (\$10 per family)

Trails and Treats
Saturday, November 3
(9:30 am-12 pm)

Story hikes, a bake sale and children's book sale. Everyone leaves with a free book!

Wonder and Wander
Saturday, May 4 (10-11am)

Story hikes and art & crafts activities.



Contact Us: Stephanie Bozzo, 301-652-9188 x32, stephanie.bozzo@anshome.org

Apply Online: www.ANShome.org/ans-preschool

Rust / Northern Virginia



RUST NATURE SANCTUARY

KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE

703-669-0000 | ANShome.org/Rust
802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia

Salad Science at Your School

A great project-based learning activity that meets VA Standards of Learning

With on-site support from an ANS Naturalist, students grow lettuce while learning about plant science and nutrition through a variety of sustainable hands-on lessons. Students log data, make predictions, record observations and track plant growth in a journal. Geared for grades PreK to 5, the project culminates with a harvest and salad party including healthy toppings and dressings.

A cross curricular, STEAM program that is supported by LCPS and FCPS Science and Nutrition Services!

For more information and pricing contact susanne.ortmann@anshome.org.

Naturalist in the Classroom

Can't come to Rust? Reduce your carbon footprint and we will come to you!

ANS programs support key components of project-based learning via real world connections and are designed to meet Virginia Standards of Learning. Programs highlight human, impacts, ecological systems, natural resources, investigations and natural process through hands-on, STEM focused classroom activities.

PreK-5th: Wonderful Worms, Birds of A Feather, Green Cleaners, Papermaking

3rd-5th: We All Live Downstream, Skull and Scat, Garbology, Model Your Watershed, Watts Up, Erosion in a Bottle

Hands-on STEAM activities tie directly to Virginia Standards of Learning. Programs support Project Based Learning. ANS partners with the LCPS Science Department. Grades Pre-K-5. Programs can be adapted. Contact susanne.ortmann@anshome.org for more info.

Environmental Science Field Trips at Rust Nature Sanctuary

More time at Rust and less time on the bus! The Rust Nature Sanctuary is conveniently located off Route 7 in Leesburg. Closer to school = lower transportation costs!

Students participate in hands-on STEM activities that directly tie to Virginia Standards of Learning. These include macroinvertebrate studies, water quality monitoring, watershed discussions, habitat exploration, adaptations, and life cycle experiences.

ANS can be your school's partner in Project Based Learning! ANS partners closely with the LCPS Science Department for rich programming. Use this experience to begin or support your PBL! The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) has been delivering quality field trip programming at the Rust Nature Sanctuary for over 10 years. Only qualified ANS Naturalists will run these programs.

Book your next field trip to Rust Nature Sanctuary and visit our 68 acres of habitats, including meadow, forest, pond and vernal pool. Contact susanne.ortmann@anshome.org for more info.

Fresh Air Kids at Rust Sanctuary!

Children are born naturalists. The Audubon Naturalist Society builds on children's inherent curiosity about the world by using hands-on, nature-based activities to foster social, physical, and academic skill development. Our Fresh Air Kids Class is for children ages 5 and younger, along with a parent or caregiver. Classes might involve crafts, songs, books and always a hike. Bring your lunch or snack. Mingle and meet other caregivers!

**Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg ,VA
Fridays (10-11:30 am)**

September 7-October 26

Cost: \$125 (siblings 21 months and older \$115, siblings under 21 months free)

Register at www.anshome.org/parents

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS and send to ANS, Attn: Pam Oves, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Family Program - Amazing Gifts of Autumn

Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg, VA

Friday, November 16 (6-7:30 pm)

Cost: \$7 per person, includes hot cider & campfire

The 68 acres of the Rust Nature Sanctuary are in their full autumn glory. This nature hike, led by NOVA Parks Roving Naturalist David Garcia and Susanne Ortmann of the Audubon Naturalist Society, will aim to explore the abundant life found in this area and the fascinating changes that happen during the Fall season. Participants will enjoy animal encounters in their preparation for the upcoming season in our vernal pool, pond, and hardwood forest. Our adventure will end with hot cider. To register email Susanne Ortmann at susanne.ortmann@anshome.org.

Adult Nature Programs

These programs offer nature novices and experienced naturalists alike an array of opportunities to explore and learn about our area's natural history. All programs are led by experienced naturalists. Lectures are held at Woodend Sanctuary. Field trips are reached by private vehicle or carpool.

Wild places are closer than you think.®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit www.ANShome.org/adults.
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- Want to become an ANS member and get the member rate? Join at the same time you register for a program.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org.

Butterfly Boot Camp: Confusing Fall Skippers

Thursday, September 6 (7-9 pm)

Saturday, September 8 (10 am-2 pm)

Rain date Sunday, September 9

Leader: Rick Borchelt

Members \$42; nonmembers \$58

Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers: \$34

Late summer and early autumn see a spike in migratory southern skipper species making their way northward to the mid-Atlantic to take advantage of fall blooms such as goldenrods, asters, bonesets and more. These southern migrants overlap with and supplement the largest broods of the season for many of the resident multi-brooded skippers. We'll spend Thursday night at Woodend using slides and handouts to sort through the confusing array of the butterfly world's equivalent of "little brown jobs." On our half-day outing to the District's US National Arboretum and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, we'll test our ID skills in the field looking especially for uncommon species such as Long-tailed, Ocola, Brazilian, and Whirlabout Skippers.

Forest Bathing Walk

Sunday, September 9 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Natural Heritage Hike: Monocacy National Battlefield

Sunday, September 9 (8 am-Noon)

Leader: David Farner

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Known as "The Battle That Saved Washington" this 1864 battle (a Union defeat) helped to delay a Confederate attack on Washington, D.C. long enough to allow reinforcements to man the defenses of the Federal capital. Today the battlefield is bisected by Interstate 270, but the 1600-acre park preserves the areas where combat occurred as well as Monocacy River floodplain, grasslands and forests. Our hike of around 3 miles will study the course of the battle while also searching for migrating songbirds, butterflies, and other seasonal wildlife. Our explorations on natural surface trails will include some varied terrain and possibly wet ground.

Insects After Dark

Tuesday, September 11 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Leader: Cliff Fairweather

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

We've enlisted a passionate bug-hugger to help us investigate the variety of insects going about their nightly business in the habitats of our Woodend Sanctuary. Using black lights, which are high in the ultraviolet range, we'll hope to attract moths, beetles, katydids and other nocturnal insects. We'll use catch-and-release for closer inspections of these creatures, while enjoying the splendid, late-summer chorus of katydids and tree crickets.

Do you want to read your *Naturalist Quarterly* online and reduce paper use and printing costs? If so, email membership@anshome.org and ask to be taken off our mailing list.

Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 12 - Riley's Lock

B: September 26 - Carderock

C: October 10 - Violettes Lock

D: October 24 - Pennyfield Lock

E: November 14 - Widewater

F: November 28 - Swain's Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Entire series \$130/\$180

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Fall Birding Series

A. Saturday, September 15: Governor's Bridge Natural Area, MD (Mike Bowen) (7:30-10:30 am)

WAITLIST OPEN

B. Sunday, September 30: Huntley Meadows, VA (Jim Nelson) (7:30-10:30 am) **WAITLIST OPEN**

C. Sunday, October 7: Paint Branch Trail, MD (Mark England) (7:30-10:30 am) **WAITLIST OPEN**

D. Saturday, October 13: Dyke Marsh, VA (Mike Bowen) (8-11 am)

E. Saturday, October 20: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Mike Bowen) (8-11 am)

F. Sunday, October 28: Hughes Hollow, MD (Lisa Shannon & Rob Hilton) (8-11 am) **WAITLIST**

G. Saturday, November 3: U.S. National Arboretum, DC (Paul Pisano) (8-11 am)

H. Sunday, November 11: Pennyfield Lock, MD (Lisa Norwalk & Len Bisson) (8-11 am)

Each walk members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Entire series \$177/\$245



Our fall birding series visits eight protected areas, all under an hour's drive from D.C., where a variety of habitats — including field, forest, and wetland — provide good opportunities for the observation and identification of birds in autumn. On the earliest walks, we'll hope to catch some southbound migrants. As the season progresses, we'll watch for sparrows, raptors, waterfowl, and other birds.

These teaching walks are aimed at beginning to mid-level birders, but all are welcome. Most of our explorations will be on natural surface trails that may be uneven or muddy, but some destinations include mild uphill and downhill.



Bugs 101

Saturday, September 15 (8:30 am-Noon)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

All true bugs are insects, but not all insects are truly bugs. Confused? And where do those strange names like 'butterfly' and 'dragonfly' come from when these insects are not flies at all? Join an entomologist for a hands-on look at the most diverse group of animals on the planet. Our field "classroom" will be the McKee-Beshers WMA near Poolesville, MD, where we'll learn to distinguish insects from related arthropods as we look for the identifying characteristics of major insect groups. *Expect sunny, open areas with tall vegetation on our outing.*

Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park

Sunday, September 16 (3/4 day field trip)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

Bring along a folding chair and cross your fingers for a good day of raptor flight at this hawk watch in Baltimore County, just outside the northern side of the Baltimore Beltway. Our trip is scheduled close to peak for the southward passage of Broad-wing Hawks in massive numbers. Of course, we can't control weather conditions or migratory pulses, but our leaders will do their best to give you a productive day of birding. That will include exploring some of Cromwell Valley Park's trails for fall migrant songbirds, and perhaps even heading out to other close-by locations in the afternoon if the hawk flight is slow.

Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers

Sunday, September 16 (8 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

In upper Montgomery County, the Blue Mash Nature Area offers open meadows, pond, and forested edges as an ideal spot for broad-based nature exploration. We'll look for butterflies and other insects, migrant and resident birds, and other wildlife against the backdrop of late summer, sun-loving wildflowers and fruiting trees. *We'll walk several miles on natural surface trails under open and sunny conditions.*

Bats About

Thursday, September 20 (7-8:30 pm)

Leader: Kerry Wixted

Free, but registration is required.

FREE

Come and explore the natural history of and the conservation concerns for the bats in our region with this indoor/outdoor program at our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. As the sun is setting, we'll head out outdoors on a short search for bats in the evening sky. Back inside, we'll learn about the habits and habitats of these important and fascinating mammals. Our presenter is Wildlife Education and Outreach Specialist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Geology at Great Falls, MD

Friday, September 21 (10 am-1:30 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

People in our region find Great Falls both fascinating and perplexing. Arguably our most dramatic landscape feature, its origin and development remain obscure to many. We will take a relatively easy hike from the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center to the falls overlook and adjacent areas along the towpath for a round trip of 1.5-2 miles. During the walk, we will discuss how the bedrock of the Great Falls area formed in tectonic collisions hundreds of millions of years ago and how the waxing and waning of the continental glacier led to the much more recent creation of the falls. *Our geology walks typically move at a faster pace than our usual naturalist's shuffle.*

Fall Along the Water

A. Saturday, September 22 (9 am-3 pm):

Jug Bay Natural Area/Patuxent River Park, MD

B. Sunday, October 14 (9 am-3 pm):

Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

C. Saturday, November 10 (9 am-3 pm):

White's Ferry, MD

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Entire series \$92/\$130

Join our Senior Naturalist for this series of field trips tracking the unfolding of fall along local waterways rich in natural history. We'll enjoy the changing fall colors as we search for late-season blooms and fruits; migrant birds, butterflies, and dragonflies; and other still-active wildlife. On our first walk, we head to the shores of the Patuxent River in PG County to visit Jug Bay Natural Area. Next we explore the open, grassland habitats along Belmont and Occoquan Bays near Woodbridge. Finally, we'll head up the Potomac to White's Ferry and stroll along the C&O Canal, enjoying the peak of fall color. We'll cover between 2-4 miles on each outing, with some uphill/downhill walking on trip A.

Window into the World of Fungi

Thursday, September 27 (7-9:30 pm)

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Free, but registration required.

FREE

Rooted, yet not plants, heterotrophs, but not animals (growing in fairy rings, yet not even fairies), fungi are members of another kingdom. Mostly hidden under the surface, fungi have evolved their own solutions to life's persistent problems. Gaining the recognition for their pivotal role in shaping the living world, they now reshape fundamental perceptions of biologists. In this lecture at our Woodend Sanctuary, we will explore the natural history and ecology of our local fungal neighbors, rather than focus on the edibility of particular species of mushrooms.

Fall Flora Fridays

Fridays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 28: Scott's Run Nature Preserve, VA

B: October 19: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC

C: November 9: Widewater/C&O Canal, MD

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Entire series \$68/\$95

On our Fall Flora Fridays, we'll enjoy the area's rich diversity of plant life during this season of lingering blooms, ripening fruits, and changing color. Although aimed at beginning to mid-level plant enthusiasts, all are welcome. On each field trip, we may walk up to 2 miles at a stop-and-go pace on natural surface trails. Trip A will include some uphill/downhill walking.

Fall Along the Appalachian Trail

Saturday, September 29 (9 am-4:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$36; nonmember \$50

One of the best ways to experience the seasonal richness of our region is to take a hike along the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park, VA. On this moderately-strenuous hike in the northern section of the Park, we'll begin high in the saddle between North and South Marshall Mountains, before ascending South Marshall and then descending to the Browntown Trail. We'll retrace our steps back to the starting point for a total of around 4 miles, with fairly significant uphill and downhill hiking along the way. We'll keep our eyes open and ears alert for all manner of wildlife and plant sightings.

Participants should be in adequate physical condition for both uphill/downhill hiking on trails that will be rocky, uneven, and possibly muddy.

Late Season Wildflowers

Saturday, October 6 (8:30 am-Noon)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Join our outing to the wetlands of Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria, VA, to search for the last blooms of the season in the rich marsh habitats there. Plants will be our primary focus, but we'll also keep our eyes and ears open for wildlife, including still-active turtles, frogs, butterflies, and other wildlife. Flat walking conditions predominate, but forest trails may be muddy.

Intro to Tree Identification

Friday, October 12 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Fall is a great time to learn to identify our local trees and shrubs. With brilliant leaves highlighting the twigs, new buds already formed, and many fruits hanging on, there are lots of distinguishing features that help sort out the various species. This program at our Woodend Sanctuary will begin indoors with a look at some techniques of tree identification, coupled with practice using a simple key. We'll then move outdoors to use our new skills to identify many of the trees growing on the grounds. Both beginners and those who want to brush up on their ID skills are welcome.

Natural Heritage Weekend: Cape May

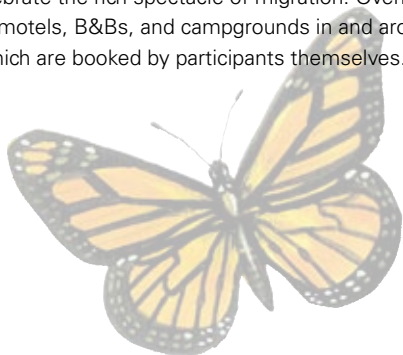
Monday, October 15 (8 am) to

Tuesday, October 16 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$120; nonmembers \$168

Cape May is an astounding place to witness autumn migration. Under the right weather conditions, a single day can bring several thousand southbound hawks, tens of thousands of migrating songbirds, and over 100,000 monarch butterflies onto the southern tip of New Jersey. Waterfowl, herons, egrets, dragonflies, and even bats travel through Cape May in October. We'll visit many of the diverse natural areas around Cape May and celebrate the rich spectacle of migration. Overnight options include motels, B&Bs, and campgrounds in and around Cape May, which are booked by participants themselves.



Geology of Cabin John Hike

Saturday, October 20 (1-5 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Montgomery County's Cabin John Creek flows about 11 miles from Rockville south to the Potomac. A fine example of a Fall Zone stream, it drops about 350 feet from its headwaters in the Piedmont upland to its mouth within the Potomac Gorge. Beginning our trip at C&O Canal Lock 8, off the Clara Barton Parkway, we'll hike about a mile down the Towpath to the mouth of the creek, then a mile or so up the Cabin John Trail. This stretch of the creek provides excellent access to bedrock exposures and stream features. Trails will be unpaved but relatively-well maintained, with a fairly gentle grade except for a notably steep hill near the Potomac. [Here, you must be able to hike up and down a rocky slope of about 100 feet.](#) Our out-and-back hike will total about 4 miles. *Note: The pace set and distance covered on this hike will be faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle" field trips.*

Botanical Gems in Montgomery County: Black Hill Regional Park

Sunday, October 21 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Designated one of Montgomery Parks Best Natural Areas, Black Hill Regional Park near Boyds offers plant enthusiasts a number of special habitats to explore. The county's forest ecologist will lead us on a loop hike (between 2-3 miles) to visit some of these, such as: lakeside; early succession meadows; high-quality, chestnut oak-dominated forests; mixed oak forests; and tulip tree-dominated forests. We'll ID plants along the way, focusing on their seasonal aspects and ecological niches.

Fall Fungus Walk

Sunday, October 21 (2-4:30 pm)

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Fall is a great time to learn to ID some of the most common families of fungi and their role in the ecosystem. At a local natural area, we'll explore the natural history of our fungal neighbors. Our leader will choose a field trip site, most likely based on his scouting closer to the date of the program. *Note: this outing will focus on natural history of fungi species, not their edibility.*



Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Sep 1	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Oct 14	9 am	Fall Along the Water B	Y	18
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		12	Oct 15	8 am	Natural Heritage Weekend: Cape May	Y	19
Sep 2	8 am	Sycamore Landing bird walk		29	Oct 19	10 am	Fall Flora Friday B	Y	18
Sep 4	10 am	Tales and Trails begins	Y	12	Oct 20	8 am	Fall Birding Series - Kenilworth	Y	17
Sep 6	7 pm	Butterfly Boot Camp	Y	16	"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Sep 7	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	Y	15	"	1 pm	Geology of Cabin John Hike	Y	19
Sep 8	7:30 am	Patuxent River Park bird walk		29	Oct 21	7:30 am	Meadowside Nature Center bird walk		29
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	"	9 am	Botanical Gems: Black Hill Regional Park	Y	19
"	10 am	Mushroom Hunters	Y	14	"	2 pm	Fall Fungus Walk	Y	19
Sep 9	8 am	Monocacy National Battlefield hike	Y	16	Oct 23	7 pm	Melanie Choukas-Bradley book signing		36
"	9:30 am	Forest Bathing Walk	Y	16	Oct 24	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal	Y	17
Sep 10	8:45 am	MCPS School's Out Camp	Y	12	Oct 25	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	22
Sep 11	7:30 pm	Insects After Dark	Y	16	"	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	9
Sep 12	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal	Y	17	Oct 26	9:30 am	Natural/Cultural History of the Ag Reserve	Y	22
Sep 13	5:30 pm	Conservation Cafe at Wild Earth Allies	Y	9	"	4:30 pm	Campfire and Craft	Y	12
Sep 15	7:30 am	Fall Birding Series - Governor's Bridge	Y	17	Oct 27	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Oct 28	8 am	Fall Birding Series - Hughes Hollow	Y	17
"	8:30 am	Bugs 101	Y	17	"	9 am	Morning on a Monadnock	Y	22
"	9:30 am	Know Your Invasive Plants	Y	28	Oct 31	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		29
"	10 am	Snickers Gap Hawkwatch bird walk		29	Nov 1	6:30 pm	Advocacy 202 Workshop	Y	9
Sep 16	8 am	Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers	Y	17	Nov 2	9 am	Fall on Wheels Along the Canal	Y	22
"	3/4 day	Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park	Y	17	Nov 3	8 am	U.S. National Arboretum bird walk	Y	17
Sep 19	8:45 am	MCPS School's Out Camp	Y	12	"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Sep 20	10 am	Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101	Y	9	"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		13
"	7 pm	Healthy Stream Biology	Y	28	"	9:30 am	Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park	Y	22
"	"	Bats About		18	Nov 4	8 am	Blue Mash Nature Trail bird walk		29
Sep 21	10 am	Geology at Great Falls, MD	Y	18	"	2:30 pm	Fall Tree ID for Birders		22

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Sep 21	10 am	Geology at Great Falls, MD	Y	18	Nov 6	8:45 am	MCPs Schools' Out Camp	Y	12
Sep 22	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Nov 7	10 am	Autumn Tree Walk at TR Island	Y	23
"	9 am	Fall Along the Water A	Y	18	Nov 8	7 pm	Doug Tallamy Presentation & Book Signing	Y	37
"	9:30 am	Field Workshop - Ten Mile Creek	Y	28	Nov 9	9 am	Fall Along the Water B	Y	18
Sep 26	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		29	"	10 am	Fall Flora Friday C	Y	18
"	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal	Y	17	Nov 10	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Sep 27	7 pm	Window into the World of Fungi		18	"	8:30 am	Eastern Neck NWR bird walk		29
"	"	How to Read Your Stream	Y	28	"	9 am	Fall Along the Water C	Y	18
Sep 28	10 am	Fall Flora Friday A	Y	18	Nov 11	8 am	Fall Birding Series - Pennyfield Lock	Y	17
Sep 29	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Nov 12	10 am	Fall Leaf Drawing Workshop	Y	23
"	9 am	Fall Along the Appalachian Trail	Y	18	Nov 14	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal	Y	17
Sep 30	7:30 am	Fall Birding Series - Huntley Meadows	Y	17	Nov 15	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	9
Oct 1	7 pm	Bird Life begins	Y	30	Nov 16	6 pm	Family Program at Rust Sanctuary	Y	15
Oct 2	6 pm	Wildlife Ecology begins	Y	30	Nov 17	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Oct 3	7 pm	The Living Soil begins	Y	30	"	9 am	Knock, Knock		23
"	"	Introduction to Ecology begins	Y	30	"	6:30 pm	ANS Autumn Lights Holiday Party	Y	35
Oct 4	7 pm	Birds of Prey begins	Y	31	Nov 18	7:45 am	Mattawoman Wildlands bird walk		29
Oct 6	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	"	9:30 am	Chesapeake Wetlands	Y	23
"	8:30 am	Late Season Wildflowers	Y	19	Nov 24	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		12	Nov 28	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk	Y	29
Oct 7	7:30 am	Fall Birding Series - Paint Branch Trail	Y	17	"	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal	Y	17
Oct 10	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal	Y	17	Nov 29	7:30 pm	Bird ID Series: Waterfowl	Y	23
Oct 11	7 pm	Crowder-Messersmith Annual Fund Talk		33	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special Event ● Children and Family Program ● Adult Program ● Natural History Field Studies ● Rust (VA) Activities and Events <p>Y = Fee-based program</p> </div>				
Oct 12	10 am	Intro to Tree Identification	Y	19					
Oct 13	8 am	Fall Birding Series - Dyke Marsh	Y	17					
"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31					
Oct 14	x am	Riverbend Park bird walk		29					

Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Fall Walk: Thursday, October 25 (10 am-Noon)
 Winter Walk: Wednesday, January 16 (10 am-Noon)
 Leader: Stephanie Mason
 Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Explore the Blair Native Plant Garden, located just outside the Naturalist Shop, with our Senior Naturalist who helped develop the garden and its educational focus. Find out more about the values of gardening with native plant species, including: lower maintenance; more value to native birds, butterflies and other insects, including pollinators; reduced negative impact on local ecosystems, and more. We'll discuss native alternatives to popular non-native species such as English ivy, as well as resources for broadening one's knowledge and understanding of plants native to the mid-Atlantic.

The Natural and Cultural History of the Ag Reserve

Friday, October 26 (9:30 am-4 pm)
 Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley & Stephanie Mason
 Members \$36; nonmembers \$54

Thirty-five years ago, with regional farmland rapidly diminishing, Montgomery County had the foresight to set aside more than 90,000 acres of farms and open space in the western and northern third of the county as an "Agricultural Reserve." Come explore this scenic, biologically diverse area and learn how it contributes to clean air and water, the availability of fresh local produce, and the overall quality of life for residents of the metro area. Our trip will visit a working CSA farm, a fall produce and pumpkin stand, an historical site, and perhaps an artist's studio, time permitting, to experience the rich diversity of plants and wildlife (and human livelihoods) that thrive in the Reserve's fields, meadows, wetlands, and rocky woodlands.

Morning on a Monadnock

Sunday, October 28 (9 am-1 pm)
 Leader: Stephanie Mason
 Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join our Senior Naturalist for a seasonal nature hike on Sugarloaf Mountain, our local monadnock. We'll explore the preserve's botanical riches while keeping our eyes and ears open for activity of still-active wildlife, including birds and mammals. Fall color should be ideal and the late-flowering witch hazel shrub should be coming into bloom. Our hike will include some uphill and downhill as we cover 2-2.5 miles at a leisurely pace. *Note: the mountain's trails will be rocky, uneven, and possibly muddy/slippery given the time of year.*

Fall on Wheels Along the Canal

Friday, November 2 (9 am-3 pm)
 Leader: Stephanie Mason
 Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Fall colors are ablaze and the towpath along the Potomac River is one of the finest places in the D.C. Metro area to experience this season's richness. In order to cover more territory and visit more habitats, we'll use bikes to explore the stretch from Swain's Lock to Riley's Lock, a 12.3 mile round-trip ride. We'll dismount often to look for fall fruits and admire lingering fall foliage, while keeping an eye and ear open for fall migrants, overwintering birds, and other still-active wildlife. Bring your own bike.

A Year in Rock Creek Park

D: Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park
 Saturday, November 3 (9:30 am-3:30 pm)
 Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley
 Members \$34; nonmembers \$42

In 2017, the award-winning author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park* completed 11 years of her popular walks for ANS titled "A Year at Boundary Bridge." This year, Melanie Choukas-Bradley is branching out into other areas of Rock Creek Park, the country's oldest urban national park, created in 1890. Autumn will find us hiking the Western Ridge and Valley Trails during peak autumn foliage and fruiting season, stopping to study and admire trees along the route. *The Fall Hike will traverse 4-6 miles, with uphill and downhill on natural surface trails which may be rocky and uneven.*

Fall Tree ID for Birders

Saturday, November 4 (2:30-4 pm)
 Leader: Stephanie Mason
 Free, but registration required.

FREE

With trees ablaze in fall colors and their fruits hanging high, we'll learn the identifying characteristics visible through binoculars of the most common species of trees and shrubs along the C&O Canal towpath upstream of Carderock.



This ANS service offers weekly reports of sightings of rare or notable birds. Email voice@ANShome.org or visit ANShome.org/voice.

Support ANS – Monthly!

It's easy! Go to ANShome.org/Donate, or contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x35 or loree.trilling@anshome.org.

A Year at TR Island

C: Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, November 7 (10 am-2 pm)

D: Late Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, December 5 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Each walk members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park* and *City of Trees*, for an exploration of Theodore Roosevelt Island, a 90-acre island in the Potomac that serves as a fitting memorial to our conservationist and naturalist 26th president—and Audubon Naturalist Society member! Our fall tree walks will take us deep into the swamp and tidal inlet along the boardwalk where willows, bald-cypresses and cattails frame views of the city behind it. Our leader will share details of the island's fascinating history during these explorations and we'll witness the ebb and flow of the Potomac tides along with the changing seasons

Fall Leaf Drawing Workshop

Monday, November 12 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

There is a long tradition of naturalists keeping field notes. Often their written notes are accompanied by drawings. If you want to learn how to add sketches to your field observations, we invite you to join an artist/illustrator, whose sketchbooks are filled with drawings of plant life, for a workshop at our Woodend Sanctuary. Tina will lead you on a walk in the woods, where you will carry along your sketchbook and reflect on the changing season. Returning to an indoor classroom, she will guide you through the steps to create a drawing of fall leaves and acorns. The only experience required is a love of nature, and a desire to look closely at the seasonal changes in our native trees. *A suggested art supply list will be provided with confirmation letter.*

Knock, Knock

Saturday, November 17 (9 am-12 pm)

Leaders: Pam and Chris Oves

Free, but registration required.

FREE

On this approximately 4-mile roundtrip bird walk along the Canal's towpath at Riley's Lock, we'll work to see or at least hear all 7 species of woodpeckers (a grand-slam!) that frequent our woods this time of year. Our walk is aimed at beginning birders. This walk will go faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle." Limited to 12 participants.

Chesapeake Wetlands

Sunday, November 18 (9:30 am-5:30 pm)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$36; nonmembers \$50

Discover the richness of autumn birding in the wetlands that line the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore with birders who know the area well. We'll meet at the Blackwater Natural Wildlife Refuge, south of Cambridge, MD, about a 2-hour drive from Washington. After a leisurely visit to Blackwater, we'll visit other wetlands in Dorchester and Talbot counties searching for migrant waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, and other seasonal birds.

Bird ID Series: Waterfowl

Thursday, November 29 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Sunday, December 2 (3/4 day field trip)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members \$48; nonmembers \$68

Lecture only \$24/\$32

Late fall signals the arrival of thousands of ducks and geese into the mid-Atlantic region. On Thursday evening, our leader will use an illustrated presentation to cover size, shape, plumages, habitat, and behaviors of the most common species in our area. On our field trip, we'll visit several prime waterfowl areas, which will be chosen closer to the date of the workshop based on the pace of migration. This workshop is aimed at beginning and mid-level birders, but all are welcome.

Geology at Long Branch

Saturday, December 1 (1-4 pm)

Inclement weather date: Sunday, December 9

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Arlington's Long Branch Nature Center occupies a picturesque spot overlooking a short, misnamed tributary of Four Mile Run, itself a tributary of the Potomac. We will hike a mile or so out—and a mile back—down Long Branch and Four Mile Run, returning by the same route. A variety of rock units are exposed along the trail, including an undersea landslide frozen in time, long-vanished seaside flats, and the bottommost layer of the coastal plain. To add botanical icing to our geological cake, we will traverse an old-growth upland forest and a quicker-changing floodplain forest. The paved route is entirely on level to gently-inclined park trails. *Note: Our geology hikes move faster than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."*



Birding the Shenandoah Valley

Saturday, December 1 (9 am-4 pm)

Leaders: Joe Coleman and Laura McGranaghan
Members (ANS & LWC) \$36; nonmembers \$50

Clarke County in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley is rich with excellent birding areas. Join two seasoned birders on a daylong search for hawks, sparrows, waterfowl, and other seasonal birds in the northeastern section of the Valley. We'll meet at the Snicker's Gap Hawkwatch in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the Loudoun/Clarke County border. From here we'll move along the Shenandoah River, and visit the Virginia State Arboretum and Blandly Farm. We'll wrap up the day with a return to Snicker's Gap Hawkwatch to see what's moving overhead. All levels of birders are welcome, and we will carpool/caravan from our meeting point to the return. Our field trip is cosponsored with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC).

Natural History of Owls

Thursday, December 6 (7-9:30 pm)

Leader: Scott Baron

Free, but registration required.

FREE

Local owl populations swell during the winter as resident species are joined by northern migrants. Looking for owls and understanding their specialized adaptations is an exciting winter activity. This illustrated slide lecture at our Woodend Sanctuary, presented by a local birder and owl enthusiast, will cover field identification techniques, basic adaptations and natural history of owls.

Winter Birding at Black Hill

Section A: Saturday, December 8 (8:30-11 am)

Section B: Saturday, January 5 (8:30-11 am)

Section C: Sunday, February 3 (8:30-11 am)

Section D: Saturday, March 2 (8:30-11 am)

Leader: Mark England

Each walk: members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$87/\$123

The winter months can be an ideal time to learn more about birds and birding, and Black Hill Regional Park, in upper Montgomery County, is an ideal outdoor classroom for this study. Each walk in our series, intended for beginning to mid-level birders, will visit one or more sites in the Park in a search for waterfowl, sparrows, raptors, and other both resident and overwintering species. The Park's habitats are varied and include wetlands and Little Seneca Lake, as well as forest and field. Join us for the entire series and observe the seasonal changes in numbers and species, or just sign up for individual walks.

Winter Weeds

Friday, December 14 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Not all herbaceous plants disappear in the winter. Many persist as dried stalks and seed clusters, with a beauty to match the season. Join ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason for an indoor/outdoor introduction to winter weed and wildflower identification at our Woodend Sanctuary. We'll also investigate seed dispersal strategies and examine plant skeletons for signs of summer insect activity, such as insect galls, chrysalids, cocoons, and egg cases.

Winter Walks Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: January 9 - Carderock

Section B: January 23 - Widewater

Section C: February 6 - Swain's Lock

Section D: February 20 - Violettes Lock

Section E: March 6 - Pennyfield Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Entire series \$113/\$159

Join our Senior Naturalist for one or all of these walks along the C&O Canal as we look for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, practice winter botany skills, and enjoy the expansive views along the Potomac River that this season provides. Carpooling will be available from Woodend.

Introduction to the Winter Night Sky

Thursday, January 10 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Leader: Richard Orr

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Can you spot Orion the hunter rising up just over the treetops? This alone is a sure sign that winter has come once again to the northern hemisphere. Being able to read the sky in winter can give you a unique sense of cosmological wonder since most of the brighter stars are, in fact, winter stars. While our leader is best-known for his expertise in dragonflies, he'll share his equally strong knowledge of astronomy in an indoor/outdoor presentation at our Woodend Sanctuary. We'll be introduced to sky guideposts and the dozen or so "winter" constellations. Assuming skies are clear, we'll bundle up to head outside and look for some of these wondrous celestial sights through a telescope.

Winter Hike Series: River and Rocks

- A. Saturday, January 12 (3/4 day hike) Catoclin Mountain Park, MD
 B. Sunday, January 27 (3/4 day hike) Riverbend Park, VA
 C. Saturday, February 9 (3/4 day hike) C&O Canal, MD
Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar
Each hike: members \$34; nonmembers \$48
Entire series \$92/\$130

Take on two of your New Year's resolutions at once: spend more time outdoors exploring nature AND get more exercise by signing up for one or more of our winter hikes. This season's series traverses the rocky trails of Catoclin Mountain Park just as the New Year begins. We'll hike between 3.5-5 miles here, either as one long loop or as a series of shorter hikes. Our next two hikes visit the scenic bottomlands along the Potomac River. Hike B will use the Potomac Heritage Trail, which is mostly flat, but offers a small amount of rocky terrain, for a round trip hike of 3.8 miles. On our last outing, we will hike upriver on the flat C&O Canal towpath from Pennyfield Lock near Potomac, MD to Violettes Lock—and back—for a round trip total of 5 miles. On all three of these hikes, we will search for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills. *Hikes may be modified depending on weather and ground conditions, which could be muddy or snow-covered. These hikes are designed to offer a natural history experience for persons who want to move farther and faster than the pace of most ANS field trips. We will stop to observe and admire nature, but will keep a pace necessary to cover the distance stated.*

Winter Waterfowl Prowl

- Sunday, January 13 (8 am-12:30 pm)
Leader: Mike Bowen
Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Early in the year is the best time to search for and learn to ID overwintering waterfowl in our area. Basing our search at wetlands and waterways relatively close-in to the metro area, we'll visit sites in or near the District, Northern Virginia, or Montgomery County. Our exact locations will be determined closer to the date of the field trip, based on our leader's scouting expeditions. While our focus will be waterfowl, we'll keep an eye open for all birdlife. All levels of birders welcome.



Winter in Cape May

- Saturday, January 19 (9 am) to
 Sunday, January 20 (4 pm)
Leader: Mark Garland
Members: \$120; nonmembers \$168

Visit the varied coastal habitats of Cape May at the heart of winter to search for wildlife during this seaside resort's quietest season. We'll start with a walk at Cape May Point State Park on Saturday morning. If it's a mild winter there can be a good variety of lingering songbirds and waterfowl in the park. In harsh winters ice forms along the beaches, harbor seals rest on the floating ice, and woodcocks feed along the roadsides. After lunch, we'll travel north to look for shorebirds and waterfowl at one or two inlets along the Atlantic Ocean coast. Big flocks of Dunlins winter here, and there are good chances to see scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, two species of loons, and other water birds. We end the day at Jakes Landing, where sometimes Short-eared Owls are seen patrolling the marsh at dusk. If it's a calm evening we may try to call a Great Horned Owl or an Eastern Screech-Owl. We will plan to spend all day Sunday around the southern tip of the Cape, taking walks at several natural areas. If the weather is bitterly cold we will mix shorter walks with warming breaks inside. *Overnight options include motels, B&Bs, and lodges in and around Cape May, which are booked by participants themselves.*

Look for details on other winter programs at ANShome.org/adults

New Year's Moonwalk

- Saturday, January 19 (6:30-8:30 pm)
Leader: Stephanie Mason

Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill

- A: Sunday, January 20 (3-5:30 pm)
 B: Sunday, February 10 (3:30-6 pm)
Leader: Mark England

Intro to the ID of Gulls

- Thursday, January 24 (7:30-9:30 pm)
 Saturday, January 26 (3/4 day field trip)
Leader: Paul Pisano

Walk Among the Giants

- A: Saturday, January 26 (9 am-1 pm)
 B: Saturday, April 13 (8 am-Noon)
 C: Sunday, July 21 (8 am-Noon)
 D: Sunday, October 27 (8 am-Noon)
Leader: Stephanie Mason



Feature Photos



Photo by Ben Israel

ANS's restored meadow is ablaze with the brilliant yellows of black-eyed susans and oxeye (false) sunflowers, attracting bees and other pollinators, and thrilling passersby with a naturally spectacular show.



Photo by Daniel Martinez

This toad, likely a Fowler's, found in a Huntley Meadows marsh seemed perfectly ready for a close-up as nature lovers sauntered by.



Photo by ANS member Patty Friedman

“This Spicebush Swallowtail is a Batesian mimic of the distasteful Pipevine Swallowtail,” says marylandbiodiversity.com “The Batesian mimicry is when one or more harmless species mimics the appearance of a toxic or distasteful species, attaining some degree of protection from predators who learn to avoid the model, a protection usually extending to the mimics as well.”



Cathy Wiss, who coordinates our Citizen Science water quality monitoring program, recently captured this gorgeous adult Northern Red Salamander at Ten Mile Creek. Maryland is a hotbed for salamander activity because it is on the edge of several salamander species' ranges.

Stream Science

For 25 years, ANS has been teaching the natural history of aquatic ecology and training volunteer stream monitors who track the health of our region's streams. Learn from the experts: study stream science in our introductory classes, and you just might be inspired to become a stream monitor yourself! Our advanced classes are perfect for those interested in deepening their knowledge about biological stream monitoring and are taught by our Maryland Biological Stream Survey-certified instructor Cathy Wiss.

Registration & Fee Information

Registration required: register online at www.anshome.org/adults. The classes are open to anyone 10 years and older. Except for Macro ID Review & Quiz, prices for all classes are \$15 Members/\$25 Nonmembers; waivers are available for existing ANS monitors and middle and high school students earning SSL credit—email cathy.wiss@anshome.org for details.

Introduction to Stream Science*



Classroom Session

Healthy Stream Biology
Section D: Thursday, September 20 (7-9:30 pm)
Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

In the classroom, we will explore how “benthic macroinvertebrates” – organisms that live in the bottom of streams – help us assess a stream’s health. We will learn how to identify these organisms to the taxonomic level of order through a PowerPoint presentation and by examining preserved specimens through a hands-on session with microscopes.

Field Workshop

Section C: Saturday, September 22 (9:30 am-12 pm)
Ten Mile Creek, Boyds, MD

In the field workshop, we will visit a healthy stream to practice monitoring techniques and to collect and identify the benthic macroinvertebrates we find.

How to Read Your Stream*

Thursday, September 27 (7-9:30 pm)
Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD



Learn about the influence of land uses on streams, stream character and dynamics, bank erosion, bar formation, substrate composition, different velocity-depth regimes, and the importance of riffles and riparian vegetation. We will practice assessing stream habitat by using photographs of streams and the forms that monitors fill out in the field. This class is recommended for anyone who plans to participate in the ANS water quality monitoring program and is a good refresher on habitat assessment for experienced monitors.

Know Your Invasive Plants

Woodend Sanctuary (Teale)
Chevy Chase, MD
Saturday, September 15 (9:30 am-12 pm)



Invasive plants that kill or bring down mature trees can seriously alter stream health and ecosystem function. Volunteer Master Naturalist Diyan Rahaman will help you identify non-native invasive plants at Woodend and in nearby Rock Creek Park. An ANS/Rock Creek Conservancy Partnership.

*Interested in ANS’s stream monitoring program? The classes in the introductory series are recommended for all volunteer monitors and those interested in joining the program. To learn more about classes or becoming a volunteer, contact Cathy Wiss at cathy.wiss@anshome.org.



Photo by Gregg Peterson



Photo by Cathy Wiss

Free Birding Trips September-December

These free, volunteer-led walks offer birders a chance to explore new areas with other birding enthusiasts. Visit ANShome.org/Adults for complete directions, additional trips, and more information. Turn to page 16 for the list of fee-based, instructional classes and field trips for beginning to mid-level birders. **Register online at www.anshome.org/adults.**

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 2

Sycamore Landing and Hughes Hollow, MD

Half day. Early migrant songbirds; some raptors, waterfowl, and migrating butterflies. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at the Sycamore Landing parking lot by the C&O Canal. Easy walking trail.

For more info, contact leader Tony Futcher, 301-422-3927 or tonyfutcher1@verizon.net.

Saturday, September 8

Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince George's Co., MD

Register for the waitlist at www.anshome.org/adults.

FULL

Saturday, September 15

Snickers Gap Hawkwatch (between Bluemont & Berryville, VA)

Two-thirds day. Joint ANS/MBC trip. Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. **Meet time/place:** 10 am at commuter parking lot at VA 7 and VA 601. Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams will lead.

Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, and pack lunch. Call leaders for directions at icepeep@aol.com or 703-282-9495 (cell).

Wednesday, September 26

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

Half day. Songbirds, waterfowl, eagles, and other raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am inside the refuge at central parking lot.

For more info contact leader Jim Waggener at 703-567-3555 (6-person limit).

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 14

Riverbend Park, Fairfax County, VA

Half day. Sparrows and other late-season songbird migrants, waterfowl, raptors. Some hilly areas. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at Nature Center parking lot at the end of Jeffery Rd. From I-495 in Virginia, exit at Rte 193; drive 4.5 miles west on 193, and turn right at traffic light onto Riverbend Rd. Drive 2.2 miles and bear right on Jeffery Rd, which dead-ends at parking lot. For more info, contact leader Scott Baron at baron.scott@gmail.com (10-person limit).

Sunday, October 21

Meadowside Nature Center, Rockville, MD

Half day. Late songbird migrants and resident songbirds in varied habitat. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at the Nature Center parking lot on Meadowside Lane. For more info, contact leader Marc Liebermann at mdlieberm@gmail.com (10-person limit).

Wednesday, October 31

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See September 26 listing for details.

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 4

Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery County, MD

One-third day. Hawks, sparrows, finches, and other woodland birds. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at Zion Road parking lot.

Waterproof footwear strongly recommended. For more info, contact leader Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net (10-person limit).

Saturday, November 10

Eastern Neck NWR, Kent County, MD

Full day. Expect to finish around 2:30 pm. Good variety of waterfowl, some waterbirds, gulls, and terns as well as landbirds, hawks, and eagles in mixed farm, woodland, pond, and bay areas. Bring pack lunch and warm drinks. **Meet time/place:** 8:30 am at the Tundra Swan Boardwalk. For more info, contact leader Paul DeAnna at ppdeanna47@gmail.com or 202-544-2680 (15-person limit).

Sunday, November 18

Mattawoman Wildlands, Marbury, Charles County

Half day. Joint trip with SoMD Audubon on the George Wilmot Trail. Large concentrations of waterfowl expected on Mattawoman Creek, plus songbirds, woodpeckers (some red-headed), and raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7:45 am at Lackey High School parking lot, 3000 Chicamuxen Rd, Indian Head, MD 20640. Bring waterproof shoes/low boots, and dress for possible wind. One-mile walk to and from trail head and half-mile walk on uneven forest trail. For more info, contact leader Lynne Wheeler at 301-751-8097 (prefer text) or somdaudubon@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, November 28

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See September 26 listing for details.

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 8

Huntley Meadows, Fairfax County, VA

Half day. Wintering waterfowl and other winter residents, Bald Eagles a possibility. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot by the Visitor's Center. For more info, contact leader Ben Jesup at benbreep@gmail.com (12-person limit).

Wednesday, December 19

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See September 26 listing for details.

Online Registration

Register for Free Birding Trips online at www.anshome.org/adults.



Natural History Field Studies



This popular program, cosponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Graduate School USA, provides a comprehensive and stimulating view of our region's natural history and conservation issues. Taught at the college freshman level, these courses are open to anyone 18 years of age or older, professionals and amateurs alike. A Certificate of Accomplishment is awarded for completion of a required curriculum of 39 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs).

Classes are offered at several locations around the DC metro area, including the Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD, and nature centers and other locations in Virginia, as well as the Capital Gallery in downtown DC, which is Metro accessible. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit ANShome.org/adults.

Bird Life

NATH7115E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Mondays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: October 1-December 10

Field trip dates: October 13, November 3, and December 1 (full day to Blackwater NWR)

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Mark England

Study the life histories and ecology of resident and migrant birds of the Central Atlantic region. Emphasis is on birding techniques, use of field guides, introduction to birdsong, and identification of our area's birds. Bird forms and adaptations, habitats, plumage, migration, and conservation are also covered. The course features a field trip to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland as well as two other field trips. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Wildlife Ecology

NATH8265E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: October 2-December 4

Field trip dates: October 20 (Patuxent), November 3 and 17

Location: Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro)

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Sally Valdes

Gain an understanding of wildlife techniques and theory, including the basics of life history, identification, population ecology, habitat management, and animal behavior. Learn how institutional missions and federal laws influence wildlife and habitat conservation, and how humans affect and are affected by wildlife in rural, suburban, and urban environments of the Mid-Atlantic region. Pressing concerns about invasive and introduced species, the effects of climate change on wildlife, and the influences of a changing economic environment will also be discussed. Previous courses such as Biology for Naturalists (NATH1110E) and Introduction to Ecology (NATH1160E), or equivalent, are recommended. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

The Living Soil

NATH1175E, 2 credits

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: October 3-December 5

Field trip dates: October 13, October 27, and November 17

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Joel Cohen

Knowledge of soils is basic to understanding plant communities and ecosystems. Examine the nature of soils and the ways they affect their local environment. Learn the structure, properties, nutrient supply, and classification of soils and the significance of these factors to plant growth and other uses. Discover the biodiversity of life in the soil, experience hands-on labs on soil groups and soil properties. Field trips to natural land resource areas of the Central Atlantic region. Previous courses in wetlands and biology are helpful. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Introduction to Ecology

NATH1160E, 2 credits

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: October 3-December 12

Field trip dates: October 13 and 27, November 17, and December 1 (3 of the 4 needed for completion)

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Paula Wang

A fundamental understanding of ecology and the physical and biological principles on which ecosystems depend is essential for any naturalist. In this course students learn to interpret the patterns and processes of nature by studying energy flow, food webs, biogeochemical cycles, population dynamics, communities, behavioral and evolutionary ecology, biodiversity, biomes and plant/animal interactions. No class on November 21. Previous courses such as Biology for Naturalists (NATH 1110E) or another biology course are recommended. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Fall Courses October-December

Birds of Prey

NATH7155E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: October 4-December 13

Field trip dates: October 13 (Cape May, NJ), November 3 (Waggoner's Gap, PA), and December 1 (Hawk Drive, VA)

Location: Oakton High School, Vienna, VA

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Liam McGranaghan

Experience the wonder of the fall raptor migration and learn to identify raptors in flight. Study habitat requirements of birds of prey and their relationships to other species. This course will concentrate on species typically found in eastern North America but will also cover additional selected species. Three field trips are planned, with one likely to be to Cape May. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Free Beginner's Bird Walks Saturdays, 8-9 am at Woodend

Have you ever wanted to learn about the birds you see regularly around Washington? Did you know that about 250 birds either pass through or make this area their home?

Join us every Saturday morning at Woodend for our Beginner Bird Walks. An excellent place to come for those just starting out or for those who want to learn more about our area's birds. From 8-9 am a volunteer leader will guide you through the important how tos: from how to use binoculars to how to identify our most prevalent resident birds.

Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at www.anshome.org/adults.

These gentle walks happen every Saturday morning from the beginning of March through the end of June, then from the first Saturday in September to the first Saturday in December. Walks take place the first Saturday of January and February before resuming weekly in March.

Be sure to visit the Audubon Naturalist Shop after the bird walk. The shop opens at 9 am on Saturdays and if you let the cashier know you attended that morning's bird walk they will provide you with a coupon for a discount in the shop.

Find details on Winter NHFS classes, starting in January, at ANShome.org/adults

Land-Use Principles

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

Botany for Naturalists

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Sujata Roy

Geology

Saturdays, Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Plaza)

Instructor: Joe Marx

Rock Identification

Saturdays, Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Plaza)

Instructor: Joe Marx

Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

Experience gained on field trips is essential to these courses, so students should not register for classes when field trips overlap.

Registration may be completed:

- in person at the Grad School Registrar's Office, 8 am-7 pm, Monday-Friday
- online at graduateschool.edu
- by phone at 202-314-3300 or toll-free at 888-744-GRAD
- by FAX: 866-329-4723
- by mail: Registrar's office, Suite 120, 600 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20024

BOOKSHOP OPEN!

Our Naturalist Shop will be open 30 minutes prior to the first night of classes at Woodend. Students can buy books and other items at a 20% discount! We usually carry textbooks for classes, but call 301-652-3606 to confirm.



This ANS service offers weekly reports of sightings of rare or notable birds. Email voice@ANShome.org or visit ANShome.org/voice.

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Nature Travel

Discover a new world!

ANS's Nature Travel program offers our members and friends opportunities to search for wildlife and explore the wonders of nature at places outside the mid-Atlantic region. Group size is typically limited to 15 people, and many trips fill early. Call Carol Hayes at the ANS travel desk at 301-652-9188 x10 or email carol.hayes@anshome.org for complete itineraries and registration information or visit ANSHome.org/travel.

Yellowstone: Autumn Magic in America's First Park

September 13-22, 2018

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Mark England

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

This trip is full but call to be added to the waitlist.

Australia - Natural History "Down Under"

November 4-17, 2018

Optional Extension to November 23

Leaders: Mark Garland & Steve Potter

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Explore the rugged landscapes and rich wildlife communities of Australia on this new ANS Travel Program. Our tour is focused on the southern part of Australia, where spring will be in full splendor during the month of November. Our loop from Melbourne to Adelaide visits a wide variety of habitats, including forests, scrublands, plains, rivers, marshes, and mountains. Birds are a major focus, and there are many spectacular species for us to find, but we'll also search for other wildlife, learn some of the more widespread plants, discuss geology, and learn about the long history of the Australian aboriginal people. Our optional extension visits Queensland, in the tropical northeast corner of Australia, and features a full day visit to the Great Barrier Reef.

For ANS Travels...or Your Own!

Consider travel insurance for any trip with our insurance partner Travelex. By using our code **20-6029** you will also be supporting ANS. Contact Carol at 301-652-9188 x10 for more information, or go to the Travelex website: travelexinsurance.com.

WEEKLY PLANT CLINIC

Master Gardeners have a "help desk" outside Woodend's Naturalist Shop on Saturdays, 10 am-Noon, April through September. Bring your plant/insect specimens and learn more about gardening!



Photo by Richard Orr

Panama: Travels to the Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge

January 30-February 7, 2019

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn & Carlos Bethancourt

Panama's geographic location as the link between South and Central America makes it a land of exceptional biological diversity. Our base of study is the remarkable Canopy Tower, a small ecotourism lodge built into the frame of a radar facility formerly run by the US Military during the Cold War era. We will take day trips to various nearby habitats, rich in a variety of tropical ecosystems. We'll then visit the Canopy Lodge, a beautiful sister facility located in the low mountains just three hours to the west. Detailed itinerary and costs to follow. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org if you'd like to receive information on the trip when it's available. Our local guide will be the exceptionally-talented Senior Bird Guide for the Canopy Tower, Carlos Bethancourt, the global winner of the EcoTripMatch.com Best Nature Tour Guide award in 2018. He has led previous ANS trips to Panama and always gets rave reviews from our travelers.

Costa Rica: A Trove of Tropical Birds—and Much More

February 22-March 4, 2019

Optional extension to March 7

Leaders: Stephanie Mason & Carlos "Charlie" Gomez

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

This trip is full but call to be added to the waitlist.

New Mexico: A Natural History Exploration

May, 2019

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn and Paul Pisano

New Mexico is known as the land of enchantment, but it's also a land of great diversity— diverse wildlife, diverse ecosystems influenced by a huge range of elevations and past geological events, diverse cultures where Native American and Spanish influences dominate, and a history that is unlike any other. Visiting New Mexico in May means catching the birds while they are migrating and the desert blooms when they are opening! Detailed Itinerary and costs to follow. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org if you'd like to receive information on the trip when it's available.

Galapagos Islands: Darwin's Wild Classroom

June 21-30, 2019

Leaders: Stephanie Mason, Michael O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis & local guides

A trip to Ecuador's Galapagos Islands is one of the world's greatest natural history excursions. ANS is happy to be collaborating once again with industry leader Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours for our 4th collaborative trip to this fascinating archipelago. The 2019 cruise itinerary will visit eight islands on board the M/V Evolution, providing a premium travel experience. An optional pre-trip visit to the Tandapaya region of mainland Ecuador and two optional post-trip extensions (one to Peru's Machu Picchu and one to Napo Wildlife Center in Ecuador's Amazonian lowlands) are also being planned. Contact carol.hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 for information on how to register for the trip. Prices per person will vary, depending on the size and location of individual cabins on the boat.

Oregon: Columbia River Gorge to the Scenic Coast

August 16-25, 2019

Leader: Mark Garland

Search for birds and enjoy natural history in a diverse set of habitats on our new Oregon itinerary. We'll visit the scenic Columbia River Gorge on our way to Bend, a pleasant town along the Deschutes River at the eastern foot of the Cascades. Here we'll explore the sagebrush steppe of the high desert, the riparian corridor along the river, and montane forests and meadows of the Cascade Mountains. We then head to Newport along the scenic Oregon coast, searching for birds and marine mammals. A leisurely drive north along the coast takes us back to Portland, where the trip concludes.

Tanzania: East African Wildlands and Wildlife

Late 2019 or early 2020

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and local guides

Our Senior Naturalist can't stop talking about the sights and sounds she experienced on a wildlife safari to Tanzania late last year. From giraffes to bee-eaters, from leopards to hornbills, an amazing assortment of animals were encountered and photographed in their natural environments. Planning has begun for an ANS trip to this stable East African nation with visits to the renowned Ngorongoro Crater and vast Serengeti grasslands. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org if you'd like to receive information on the trip when it's available.



Photo by Stephanie Mason

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund Annual Talk: "Report from Vieques: Hurricane Maria's Impact on the Birds of Puerto Rico"

Thursday, October 11 (7-9 pm)

Woodend Sanctuary

Daphne Gemmill, also known as the "Bird Lady of Vieques", has studied the birds of Vieques Island,



Photo by Daphne Gemmill

Puerto Rico for over 35 years. Returning to the island after Hurricane Maria, Daphne will report on her observations of the impacts of Maria in 2017 as well as future challenges associated with climate change on both Vieques and other Caribbean Islands' birdlife.

Light refreshments served. Please RSVP to Carol Hayes at carol.hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 by October 5. Contributions to the Crowder-Messersmith Fund will be gratefully accepted.



Removal of Bush Honeysuckle is great for us and the environment

By Alison Pearce, Director of Restoration

It was hot and humid and hard, but for three weeks straight, ANS staff and volunteers teamed with the dedicated youth and staff of Rock Creek Conservation Corps to remove more than 70 bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) along the entry drive at Woodend this past July. This shrub from Asia is an enormous problem for the health of eastern deciduous forests. It forms dense thickets that prevent the growth of native shrubs, young trees, and woodland flowers because of the deep shade it creates, and chemical defenses called “allelopathy” that spread from its roots. This, in turn, has negative impacts on breeding birds and amphibians, and exacerbates health issues, such as Lyme disease.

We’re thrilled to replace bush honeysuckle with native shrubs with high wildlife value, such as American holly, eastern red cedar, arrowwood and maple-leaf viburnum. But, this project could be considered a type of ecological penance. We recently discovered a document from 1972 describing how ANS was planting bush honeysuckle along the driveway as habitat for birds. This irony should remind us of a key fact about much-maligned “invasive” species: their proliferation was initiated by humans, albeit sometimes with noble intentions.

There is nothing inherently evil about any species. They are simply responding to the conditions and opportunities of a new environment. We humans do this, too. The fact that we are so adaptable underlies many of our current environmental problems. However, we are also uniquely capable of scrutinizing our impacts, learning from our mistakes, and taking actions to make space for other species. The next step in such “adaptive management” at Woodend will be a large-scale bush honeysuckle removal in our forest. We hope you’ll come visit soon to see how we’re evolving.



Photo by Ben Israel

Tip for Homeowners: Replacing Bush Honeysuckle at Home

Some people love the fragrant honeysuckle shrubs in their yards. How about a native replacement that smells great, has beautiful flowers and will bring wildlife to your backyard habitat? Consider these:

Native trumpet honeysuckle vine: *Lonicera sempervirens*

American elderberry: *Sambucus canadensis*

Ninebark: *Physocarpus opulifolius*

Buttonbush: *Cephalanthus occidentalis*



Photo of buttonbush by Caroline Brewer



ANS is extremely grateful to the following people who became Tree Champions of Woodend recently by purchasing one or more trees to support our restoration work. Trees can be purchased in honor or in memory of someone and we will send a notification card with your dedication message. For more information about our Plant-a-Tree program, please contact Jacky Wershbaile at jacky.wershbaile@anshome.org or call 301-652-9188 x31.

Commemorative Tree

Karoline Anders, FK Millar

Selected Canopy Tree

Sharon Buchanan, Elizabeth Carl, Laura Farron, Barbara Franklin, Michael Gerech, Cal Leonard, Edward Walker

Canopy Tree

Nancy Bagwell, Richard Griffin, Edward Walker, Karoline Anders, Brian Cox, Ann Fieldhouse, Richard Fieldhouse, Gail Fisher, Ashley Flory, Jane Houlihan, Liz Jones, Deborah Kline, Lisa Potetz, Doris Welch, Harvey Berger, Letitia Carlson, Donna Castillo, Clayton Cochran, Helen Gray, Heidi Henning, Betsy Johnson, Janet Kegg, Laurie Lewis, Marian Molinaro, Marisela Munoz, James Owens, Sudi Press, Jonathan Strong

Understory Tree

Leslie Agro, Helen Alexander, Charles Alston, Carol Anderson, Lee Babcock, John Bjerke, Janet Bogue, Deborah Bombard, Joan Boros, Marcia Bowen, Dorothy Brown, Christine Burris, Robert Carr, Megan Carroll, Larry Cartwright, Mary Ann Chandler, Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Marlene Cianci, Catherine Cooper, Brenda Corbin, Josephine Cox, Elizabeth Crafford, Catherine Cukras, Tom Donohue, Gail Edie, Cris Fleming, Barbara Francisco, Ellen Gold, Michael Gravitz, Nancy Grissom, John Harwood, Paul Hillery, Susan Hoffman, Joseph Howard, Mary Johanningsmeier, Bruce Johnson, Elaine Joselovitz, Melanie Killen, Jeffrey Kovar, Patricia Larkin, Nancy Lee, Ann Lichter, Mary Massey Cynthia McCormick, Theresa Meehan, Robert Mertz, Diana Morse, Betty Mullendore, Tena Nauheim, Nancy Ody, Cara Olsen, Anthony Osretkar, Katherine Payne, Alison Pearce, Carolyn Peirce, Nancy Pielemeier, Richard Pine, Mark Raabe, Barbara Roberts, Marc Rothenberg, Mary Sahdev, Kendra Schechter, Nicholas Schliapin, Barbara Schubert, Mary Scott, Pamela Shank, Kim Shedd, Rebecca Shuford, Cindy Todd, Frank Turley, Craig Winslow, Larry Wiseman

Save the Date
 for the
**ANS Autumn Lights
 Holiday Party**
Saturday, November 17
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Kick off the holiday season with friends and family at Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

Start your holiday shopping by picking up a few gifts at our silent auction while enjoying music, food, and festivities.

Melanie Choukas-Bradley Book Signing and Author Talk: *The Joy of Forest Bathing*

Tuesday, October 23 (7-9 pm)
Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Photo by Judy Light



ANS members and friends are invited to a special presentation and book signing to celebrate the release of *The Joy of Forest Bathing* by naturalist,

author and longtime ANS field trip leader, Melanie Choukas-Bradley.

Melanie will describe the world-wide phenomenon called shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing, that began in Japan in the 1980s and is rooted in the traditional Japanese reverence for nature. Forest bathing has demonstrated mental and physical health benefits, which Melanie will discuss as she shows slides from her recent forest bathing trip to Japan and talks about the forest bathing walks she leads.

The Joy of Forest Bathing contains inspirational and practical tips for strengthening your nature connection, is beautifully illustrated by Dutch artist Lieke van der Vorst, and contains several full-page color photographs, making it the ideal gift for nature enthusiasts! Melanie will sign books after her presentation.

Register for this free event at anshome.org/forestbathing.

Volunteer Corner

An occasional feature that highlights ANS volunteers

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

Max Newman is a man of few words who has been a part of ANS for most of his life. When he was six years old—way back in 2004!—he attended his first camp here. He loved it so much that he came back almost every year until 2012. Then he and his grandfather attended some of our adult programs together, and Max eventually became a regular assistant to long-time volunteer, Frank Sanford, on the interpretive Family Walk in the Woods.



Photo by Frank Sanford

When Max was three, he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome; once he began talking he expressed interest in the natural world. He taught himself how to identify hundreds of species of trees, animals and birds. According to Frank, Max "can tell most common birds we hear at Woodend by their calls" alone, and he often knows a bird is present long before anyone else ever sees it. Max makes a concerted effort to ensure that the youngest children on the Family Walks are able to learn something and he is a master of redirecting and refocusing them.

We aren't the only ones Max makes time for. He volunteers at The Smithsonian National Zoo in the Amazonia exhibit, and he spends summers working at Camp Ramah Outdoor Adventure in the Rocky Mountains near Sedalia, CO. Max is, in fact, a trailblazer: He is the first camper from their special needs camp to become a paid staff member.

Thank you, Max, for all that you do for us!

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY'S

Bloomin' Birdathon

Thank You for Making the 38th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon a Wonderful Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our annual Bloomin' Birdathon this year. Because of your sharp eyes and generous hearts we have currently raised \$23,500. Our wonderful counters used their love of birds and wildflowers to inspire more than 210 sponsors to help meet our goal.

Special thanks go to this year's top Bloomin' Birdathon fundraisers:

- Team Mason/Oves (Stephanie Mason & Pam Oves): \$6,796.50 (88 bird species)
- Team Cottingham (Anne & David Cottingham): \$6,075 (108 bird species)

- Marcia Minichiello: \$2,096.50 (71 bird species/83 blooms)
- Team Low Carbon Footprint (John Bjerke & Neal Fitzpatrick): \$1,810 (72 bird species)
- Team This One's for Jane (Eric & Nancy Voit/Kelly & Mike Strzelecki): \$1,718 (87 bird species)
- Patricia Bagley & Peter Munroe: 61 bird species/42 blooms

Thank you to the other Bloomin' Birdathon participants: Bob Bachman, Dottie Beck, Sheila Cochran, Paul D'Andrea, Cris Duke, Stephen Jones, Cecily Nabors & Diane Ford, Katherine Payne & Patti Mackey, Shirley Putnam, Nicholas Schliapin, Loree Trilling, Jacky Wershale, and the ANS Board Birdathon Team.

The Bloomin' Birdathon is one of ANS's largest fundraising events of the year. Your generous support helps to fund ANS's local conservation and environmental education programs throughout the year. Thank you so much to all participants and their generous sponsors. Look for details on the 39th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon in March 2019.

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS

May-July 2018

IN MEMORY OF:

Cliff Adelman

Barbara Holtz

Eve Bloom

Judy Bloom-Martinez

Yolande Del Buono

Donna Boxer & Ted Leavengood; Peter & Bernadette Chapin; Vincenzo & Josephine Civitella; Bonnie Coe; Daphne Gemmill; Vance & Kathy Hyndman; Jane Johnston; Jane Waldmann; Michael Wilpers; Cathy Wiss; Bill Yeaman; Adria Zeldin

Eloise Holland

Linda & Tom Foley; Julie Gold & Adam Smith; Hilary Oat-Judge & Chris Barr; Stephen Ollis & Jessica Campese; Ashely & Giovanni Vignola

Jane Huff

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Ellie & Lary Alpert; Barbara & Arnold Berlin; Debby & Gary Bortnick; Marney Bruce; Ellen Dykes & Alan McAdams; Sheila Footer; Alice Harris & Family; William Herrmann; David & Bushra Humayan; Dale & Wilma Johnson; Gail Kaufman & Sherman Cohn; Dr & Mrs Robert Kurman; John Lattanzio; Stephanie Mason; Maura & Dan McMullen; Robyn & John Mehlenbeck; Tena Nauhein & David Harrison; Sam & Barbara Polack; Anne & Ron Pomykala; Francis Rura; Carol & Steve Schneider; Leonard Shapiro; Janet & Joe Signorelli; Lois Taylor; Loree & Gregg Trilling; The Waksbergs; Jacky Wershbaile; Marilyn Wetterhahn; Cathy Wiss

IN HONOR OF:

Marney Bruce

Debra Prybyla

Braden Eisinger

Sebastain; Kimberly Caine; Robert Eisinger; Camilla Lee; Taralee Moore

Naomi Miller

Cynthia Atkin

Carolyn Peirce

Mary Danner

Evelyn Ralston

Jennifer Kawar

Jacky Wershbaile

Susan Pollack

Larry Wiseman

Shelton & Rory Zuckerman

Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon Nationalist Society 75493** in the 2018 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.

LEGACY GIFTSTO ANS

We are extremely grateful to the following members who left a legacy gift to ANS in their wills. Their visionary support will make a huge difference to our educational and conservation work and will directly help our efforts *to create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it* for years to come. Through their generosity, these dedicated ANS members will be remembered for years to come.



Jack Schultz: Jack, a long-time ANS member, volunteer and passionate naturalist who passed away two years ago, left a wonderful bequest to ANS in his will which, at the direction of his wife Helen Kavanagh, will be used to support the establishment of a Nature Play Space at our Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

The Nature Play Space is one of the signature projects of our restoration efforts and will serve children from Title 1 schools in DC and down-county Montgomery County as well as local families who want their children to play in nature.

Jack loved and championed ANS and its mission whether it was soliciting memberships and donations during the CFC, as a board member, consulting on administrative concerns or other volunteer activities.

Jack also adored playing with his many cousins and showing children the world through binoculars while traveling with Helen. His infectious laughter could lift up any room. How wonderful that through his generous gift the laughter of happy children climbing trees, digging in dirt and balancing on logs, will be heard at Woodend for generations to come.

We are deeply moved and grateful that Jack is continuing his support of ANS through his thoughtful legacy gift.

Jane Nicolet Toal: Jane became a member of ANS in 1991 and was active in our programs for almost two decades. She loved to attend member events particularly the Holiday Fair and Auctions. Jane's strong scientific background and career as a chemist with the National Institute of Health drove her curiosity for the natural world and her love for being outdoors – particularly trail riding.

We are deeply grateful for Jane's generous bequest to ANS which will directly support all our education and conservation work.

Save the Date

Professor Doug Tallamy
Special Presentation and Book Signing
Thursday, November 8 (7-9 pm)

Noted University of Delaware Naturalist Doug Tallamy will give a special presentation at Wooded on "Making Insects: A guide to restoring the little things that run the world."

Tickets: \$20, includes presentation and reception



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Sun 12-5

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Education programs are held at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society's 40-acre Headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, unless otherwise noted. All education programs except Nature Travel have online registration. You may also register in person in the EE office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. You will be notified immediately if the program is full; otherwise, confirmation letters will be emailed 1-2 weeks before the scheduled program.

Lectures are held at our Woodend Sanctuary, and field trip transportation is by private vehicle or carpool unless otherwise noted. Most programs are limited to 16 participants and also have a minimum enrollment, so early registration is important to ensure that programs run. Unless otherwise noted, weekend adult foray program fees do not include meals or lodging.

Because our programs rely on registration fees for funding, we have adopted this policy:

- Cancellations must be made at least six working days before the beginning of the program to be eligible for a credit to your account, less a \$5 administrative fee.
- If an adult foray is cancelled by ANS due to low enrollment, you will receive a full refund. If a weather-related concern or another issue outside of ANS's control forces a cancellation, you will receive a full credit to your account.
- Nature travel programs have different cancellation policies, explained on the information sheet sent on request.

ANS is committed to addressing problems when they occur. Program participants are encouraged to bring problems or concerns of any kind directly to the staff member in charge of the program. Staff members will try to resolve the problem immediately or as soon as reasonably possible. If staff is unable to do so, they are expected to bring the problem to the attention of their immediate supervisor or member of the Senior Management Team, who will take responsibility for seeking a resolution. Program participants are welcome to bring unresolved problems or concerns to the attention of the Executive Director. The Executive Director's decision on resolution of the problem is final.



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ANS ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 18, 6-9 p.m.

Woodend Sanctuary



Please join us to hear **Dr. Samuel Ramsey, aka Dr. Buggs**, discuss "Pollinator Stress Relief: How We Can Help." Dr. Buggs started a YouTube channel where he communicates complicated subjects in insect science in a simple and engaging way.

The evening event will include recognition of volunteers and Natural History Field Studies graduates, and election of members to the ANS Board. A

light buffet supper will be served.

Please RSVP to this free event by October 15 by contacting Carol Hayes (carol.hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x10). Friends and family are welcome, too.

BOARD ELECTIONS:

Members will vote on candidates for the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. An official notice including profiles of the Board candidates nominated by the Governance Committee will be posted at www.ANShome.org/board after October 1.



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Photo by Kevin Lukusa



Reporter Molette Green and Camerawoman Irene Johnson of NBCWashington, Channel 4, shined their Staycation spotlight on ANS, Woodend and Camp Audubon during a 6-7 am live shot on the sanctuary Friday, July 6. Thanks to all the staff, volunteers, parents and children who joined us so early in the morning to build a giant bird's nest and share the beauty and excitement of connecting to nature. See videos of the visit at www.YouTube.com/audubonnaturalistsociety.